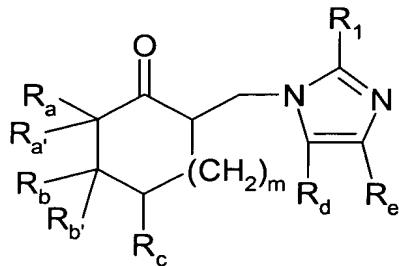


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing an imidazolyl compound corresponding to formula (I)



wherein:

R<sub>a</sub> and R<sub>b</sub> are each individually selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxyalkyl, and optionally substituted aryl and heteroaryl; or

R<sub>a</sub> and R<sub>b</sub> together form a further homocyclic or heterocyclic system comprising one or more rings;

R<sub>a'</sub> and R<sub>b'</sub> are each hydrogen or together form a carbon-carbon double bond, said carbon-carbon double bond optionally being part of an aromatic system;

R<sub>c</sub> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxyalkyl or halogen;

R<sub>d</sub> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

R<sub>e</sub> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

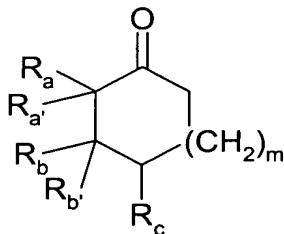
m is 1 or 2; and

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

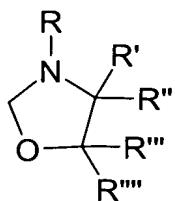
or an acid addition salt thereof;

said method comprising:

- a) reacting a compound corresponding to formula (II)



wherein  $R_a$ ,  $R_{a'}$ ,  $R_b$  and  $R_{b'}$  have the meanings defined above;  
with a compound corresponding to formula (III)



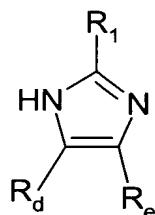
wherein:

$R$  is a hydrogen, a ( $C_1$ - $C_4$ )alkyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl group, or an optionally substituted aryl group, and

$R'$ ,  $R''$ ,  $R'''$  and  $R''''$  are each individually a hydrogen or a ( $C_1$ - $C_4$ )alkyl group;

and then

b) reacting a product of step a) with a compound corresponding to formula (IV)



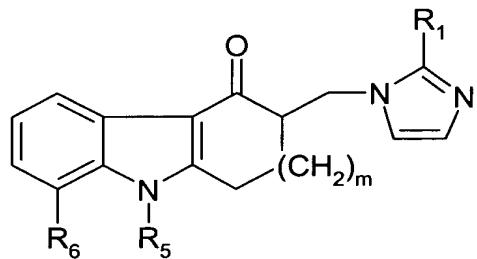
wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_d$  and  $R_e$  have the meanings defined above;

and

c) optionally reacting a product of step b) with an acid to obtain an acid addition salt.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein  $R_e$  is hydrogen or ( $C_1$ - $C_6$ )alkyl, and  $R_1$  is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

3. A method according to claim 1, for preparing an imidazolyl compound corresponding to the formula (Ia)



wherein:

m is 1 or 2;

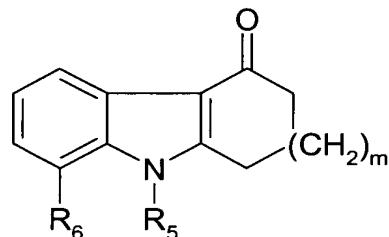
R1 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R5 is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, and

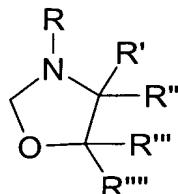
R6 is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, or

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> together with the intermediate atoms form a 5, 6, or 7 member ring, optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxyalkyl and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof; said method comprising:

a) reacting a compound corresponding to the formula (IIa)

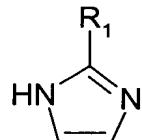


wherein R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and m have the meanings defined above; with a compound corresponding to the formula (III)



and then

b) reacting a product of a) with a compound corresponding to the formula (IVa)



wherein R1 has the meaning given above.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein R is a 2-hydroxyethyl group, and R', R'', R''' and R'''' are each hydrogen.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein m=1, and R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> together with the intermediate atoms form a 6-member ring.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein m=1; R<sub>5</sub> is methyl, and R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in an alcoholic solvent.
8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the alcoholic solvent is 1-butanol.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in a mixture of an alcoholic solvent and an aromatic hydrocarbon
10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said mixture is a mixture of methanol and chlorobenzene.